COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Over three decades, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation has become a trusted partner to donors and nonprofits with deep local knowledge, broad relationships and considerable resources in place to strengthen our four-county region. As we look to create a more vibrant future for residents, BTCF must simultaneously respond to the highest priority issues, address their root causes and expand the role of philanthropy as a force for change. A 2017 community assessment identified key trends and needs in the region, and sharpened our strategic direction. We have identified a set of priorities where we believe philanthropy can make a measurable difference. BTCF can provide leadership and opportunities exist to collaborate with our donors, volunteers and other partners for lasting impact.

MISSION
Strengthening communities through philanthropy and leadership

VISION
All residents have opportunity for economic mobility and a high quality of life

VALUES
IMPACT
Striving to make a measurable difference in all of our work

INNOVATION
Valuing experimentation and risk-taking to achieve impact

INSPIRING GENEROSITY
Motivating people to give back to their communities

EQUITY
Being inclusive and working toward fundamental fairness in communities

EXCELLENCE
Holding ourselves accountable for high-quality work

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
Increase educational attainment across the age continuum, from early childhood through adult learning, as a pathway to greater economic mobility

Investing in education is a proven pathway to greater economic opportunity and financial security. But a decades-long decline in social mobility has created a stubborn opportunity gap for lower-income kids. The jobs of today and tomorrow require education beyond high school, and will typically pay more and offer careers with advancement opportunities. Furthermore, there is a correlation among attaining education beyond high school and earning more, being healthier and achieving higher levels of civic engagement, such as volunteering and voting.

• Early literacy among young children improves
• More lower-income youth continue education beyond high school through certificate and degree programs
• More adults complete degree and certificate programs that help them more fully participate in the economy

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Increase involvement, foster connections and harness the skills and expertise people can bring to organizations and communities

Involvement in communities or organizations provides opportunities for people to act individually or collectively to address an issue or solve a problem by offering their time, skills and expertise. Research also shows that relationships and networks are strengthened through involvement in nonprofits, community initiatives or service to local government. In turn, those relationships and resources create far-reaching benefits, contributing to higher levels of trust and reciprocity among residents.

• Levels of involvement in the arts and creative process increase among year-round residents and organizations
• More people are engaged in service and leadership activities in their communities and through organizations

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
Strengthen entrepreneurship and the conditions that allow the economy to grow and residents to prosper

The need for high-quality jobs with career opportunities remains a primary concern for residents. While philanthropy is not an engine of job creation, it can play a vital role in bringing partners together to develop strategies that improve the conditions for economic and business growth. It can also support the development of promising sectors by contributing to the development of a qualified workforce, and helping connect mentors with business experience to entrepreneurs seeking to expand their business ventures.

• Jobs are created in new enterprises and small businesses because of greater access to capital and technical assistance

Our fourth strategic priority is PHILANTHROPIC STEWARDSHIP: increasing the effectiveness of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation as a philanthropic institution. We will continue to invest in our capacity in order to advance our strategic priorities, provide exemplary donor service, manage our core work and allow for continued growth of the foundation’s assets, impact and influence.
Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation’s priorities are the building blocks for a stronger region. They reinforce the foundation’s important role, in partnership with donors and many others, in moving toward a vision in which all residents have the opportunity for economic mobility and a high quality of life. We hope you will join us in achieving our goals.

LEARN
Read more about our community assessment and keep track of activities related to our priorities.

BerkshireTaconic.org/StrategicPriorities
ACloserLook.net (Launching June 2018)

CONNECT
Berkshire Taconic is hosting small group meetings and webinars focused on our plan and priorities. Check the web pages listed above for updates.

ACT
Along with generous donors, we are bringing together resources to address critical issues. You can get involved by starting a new fund, giving through a current fund or contributing to one of the funds listed below.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FUND to promote BTCF’s strategic priority in education, which focuses on increasing educational attainment across the age continuum

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FUND to promote BTCF’s strategic priority in community engagement, which fosters connections and harnesses the expertise people can bring to organizations and communities

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FUND to promote BTCF’s strategic priority in economic opportunity, which strengthens the conditions that allow the economy to grow and residents to prosper

TACONIC FUND BTCF’s fund to build the foundation’s capacity as a philanthropic organization

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Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation is confirmed in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations